



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

**Date:** 6/14/2005

**GAIN Report Number:** FR5041

## France

### Biotechnology

## Biotech Test Plots in Danger - U.S. Companies Getting Ready

2005

**Approved by:**

Kurt Seifarth

U.S. Embassy

**Prepared by:**

Marie-Cécile Hénard

---

**Report Highlights:**

Monsanto and Pioneer, the two U.S. companies conducting open-field testing of biotech crops in France in 2005, have taken measures to protect their fields. As a result of the April threat by anti biotech activists to destroy such plots, both companies met with the chief advisors for the French Ministries of Justice, Interior and Agriculture, and claim they received strong and clear support. In addition, local secret services, préfets, and police in the regions of the GM test plots are under alert.

---

Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Paris [FR1]  
[FR]

Monsanto and Pioneer are the two U.S. companies conducting open-field testing on GM crops in France in 2005. The crops being tested are glyphosate tolerant corn NK603 (Monsanto and Pioneer), insect resistant and ammonium glufosinate tolerant corn 1507 (Pioneer), insect resistant and herbicide tolerant corn 1507 x NK603 (Pioneer), glyphosate tolerant and insect resistant corn NK603 x MON810 (Pioneer).

At the press conference held by the Parliamentary working group on biotechnology organized last April (see FR5030, dated 4/18/2005), the leading anti biotech activist José Bové threatened test plot destructions on June 18 if the "pause" in open field biotech research recommended by the Parliamentary working group was not respected. As June 18<sup>th</sup> approaches, anti-biotech groups have reiterated their threat and have started to take action.

On May 14, anti-biotech activists introduced standard corn seed into a test plot planted with Monsanto biotech corn NK603, halting the experiment.

Both Monsanto and Pioneer indicated to us that they addressed their concerns to the French Ministries of Interior, Justice and Agriculture, and received strong and clear support from them. In addition, they have been in contact with local secret services, prefectures, and police in the regions where the test plots are conducted. All these services are under alert.

Pioneer indicated that they are fencing in their testing sites, and placing guards and guard dogs at several sites fearing late night attacks. Monsanto also indicated that they are placing guards on select sites for the run up to the June 18 weekend.

Finally, neither company is optimistic they can protect their test plots from the determined activists.